

Year."
COOPER, Dale. See Cooper, Wilma Lee and Stoney.

COOPER, Stoney, a fiddler, was born in Harmon in 1918. He began in radio on the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling and later appeared on radio in the Midwest and South as well as in Fairmont. He went to the Grand Ole Opry in 1957. After performing for many years with his wife, Wilma Lee Leary Cooper (see) Harvard University voted them the most authentic mountain singing group in America in 1950. Their records were placed in the Library of Music at Harvard.

Among the songs he recorded were: "West Virginia Polka," "Thirty Pieces of Silver," "The Golden Rocket," "The Legend of the Dogwood Tree," "Willie Roy, the Crippled Boy," "Just for a While," "How it Hurts to Be Alone," "Please Help Me If I Am Wrong," "Each Season Changes You," "I Want to Be Loved," "Cheated Too," "This Crazy Crazy World," "There's A Big Wheel," "Walking My Lord Up Calvary's Hill," "Come Walk with Me," "The Tramp on the Street," "The Canadian Reel," "Big Midnight Special," "Rachel's

Guitar," "I've Been Cheated Too," "Diamond Joe," "The White Rose," "Not Anymore," "We Make a Lovely Couple," "Row Two, Seat Three," "Loving You," "This Thing Called Man," "My Heart Keeps Crying," "I Tell My Heart," "He Taught Them How," "Is It Right," "X Marks the Spot."

COOPER, Wilma Lee and Stoney, performers on the Grand Ole Opry, were natives of Randolph County.

Wilma Lee, born Wilma Leigh Leary, was born in Valley Head, but became a resident of Elkins when she was three years old. At the age of five she began performing with her family's group, which was known as "The Leary Family - Country Style Church Singers." They were selected to represent the state of West Virginia at the National Folk Festival in Washington, D.C. in 1937 and 1938. She later went to Davis and Elkins College, but never lost her interest in music.

Stoney was actually named Dale Cooper. He was born on his family's farm near Harman and grew up doing farm chores as well as learning to play the five string banjo and fiddle. After graduating from high school he remained on the farm and played for country-style hoedowns until 1937, when he was hired to play fiddle with Rusty Hiser and the Green Valley Boys in Fairmont, playing regularly on station WMMN.

In 1940 Wilma and Stoney met and formed their own band, The Clinch Mountain Clan. In 1947 they moved to Wheeling and began appearing regularly on WWVA's Jamboree U.S.A. They also signed a contract with the Columbia Record Company that year. They recorded many hits, including "The West Virginia Polka," and "The Legend of the

Dogwood Tree," which was selected for the Columbia Hall of Fame. In 1955 they were offered a contract with WSM, in Nashville and became regulars on the Grand Ole Opry.

COOPER, Wilma Lee Leary, a native of Valley Head, was the wife of Stoney Cooper (see). The pair was voted the most authentic mountain singing group in America in 1950 by Harvard University. For records see Stoney Cooper. Mrs. Cooper wrote the following songs: "Cheated Too," "Heartbreak Street," "He Taught Them How," "I Tell My Heart," "Loving You," "My Heart Keeps Crying," "Tomorrow I'll Be Gone," and was co-writer of "Big Midnight Special."

CORDA, Don. "West Virginia Centennial Song," sheet music.

CORNETT, Ewel, Producer-Director of the West Virginia Historical Drama Association, and the composer of the musical score for the outdoor dramas *Honey in the Rock*, and *Hatfields and McCoy's*, was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1937, the son of Ewel Butler Cornett, Sr., and Nettie Lytle (Crawford) Cornett.

He attended the University of Kentucky and the University of Illinois, where he received his Bachelor of Music Degree. He was the originator of the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky and directed and appeared in numerous productions there. He appeared in various dramatic works in stock theatres and with off-Broadway companies around the United States. Some of his major roles were in plays such as *Little Mary Sunshine* and *The Three Penny Opera* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and in *Camelot* and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* on Broadway.

He came to West Virginia as Managing Director of *Honey in*

Dogwood Tree," which was selected for the Columbia Hall of Fame. In 1955 they were offered a contract with WSM, in Nashville and became regulars on the Grand Ole Opry.

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